Following the terrorist attack in Mumbai, the British Government had issued an advisory, advising its citizens "against all but essential travel to Mumbai". This advisory was subsequently downgraded, advising citizens to "exercise caution around large public gatherings".

(d) and (e) There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings from tourism as detailed below:

	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009
Foreign Tourist Arrivals*	521247	521990	487262
Percentage change over corresponding month of previous year	-2.1%	-12.5%	-17.6%
Foreign Exchange Earnings (in US$ million)@	1005	1046	941
Percentage change over corresponding month of previous year	-12.5%	-18.7%	-31.9%

*Provisional Estimates @ Advance Estimates

The Ministry of Tourism has taken several initiatives for promoting tourism to the country. These include liberalizing the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme for tour operators promoting India, organizing Road Shows in important tourist generating markets overseas, arranging familiarisation tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives to keep them updated on safety / security conditions in the country, media campaigns in the print and electronic media and a "Visit India 2009" scheme, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the period April to December 2009.

Suspension of employees in Indian museum

836. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel employed in non-Gazetted and Gazatted categories respectively in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, as on 1 January, 2007 and 2008 indicating number of employees placed under suspension in the respective years;

(b) the number of cases of invoking of suspension contemplating disciplinary proceedings against them;

(c) the dates of suspension of those employees and corresponding dates of commencement of disciplinary proceedings indicating the number of suspended employees against whom disciplinary proceedings are yet to commence;

(d) the average time-frame for completion of disciplinary proceedings; and

(e) the number of employees placed under suspension due to facing charges/trial for criminal offences?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Since the Indian Museum was established under an Act of Parliament as an autonomous organization, there is no post in Gazetted category in the Museum. The list of persons employed in the Museum in Group 'A', Group 'B', Group 'C' and Group 'D' of service, as on 1st January, 2007 and 2008 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The inquiry officer submitted his report in November, 2008 which was considered by the Board of Trustees and the Board decided to seek legal advice for further action in the matter. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for finalization of disciplinary proceedings.

In one case, CBI:ACB:Kolkata has sought permission to prosecute an officer who is currently placed under suspension.

Statement-I

Group-wise number of persons employed in Indian Museum, Kolkata as on 1st January, 2007 and 2008

	2007		2008	
	No. of employees as on 1.1. 2007	Under suspension	No of employees as on 1.1.2008	Under suspension
Group 'A'	9	Nil	7	2
Group 'B'	24	Nil	24	3
Group 'C'	50	Nil	47	Nil
Group 'D'	106	Nil	102	Nil

Statement-II

The names of suspended employees in Indian Museum, Kolkata, date of suspension and date of commencement of disciplinary proceeding.

Name of the Suspended employees	Date of suspension	Date of commencement of disciplinary proceeding
Shri Chandi Ghosh Administrative Officer	01.04.2008	12.03.2008
Shri Provash Ch. Sardar, Display & Designing Officer	01.04.2008	12.03.2008
Shri Dilip Kr. Das, O.S. & Accounts Officer Incharge (now retired)	01.04.2008	12.03.2008
Shri R.K. Mukhopadhyay, Sr.Conservation Officer (now retired)	19.07.2008	12.03.2008
Shri Saikat Bandopadhyay, Education Officer (now retired)	19.07.2008	12.03.2008
Other suspended employees against whom disciplinary proceedings are yet to commence	: Nil	